

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOBS AND
DEFICIT REDUCTION BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. I rise today with great disappointment in the administration's misguided agenda on job creation and deficit reduction.

You see, I have been in a family that has created jobs for generations. Shortly after World War II, my grandfather wanted to create an opportunity for his family. He wanted to create an opportunity to make a difference in his community. So, with a sixth-grade education, with \$3,000 of borrowed money, and with a dream to make a difference, he did what small businesses do naturally when they do not have the impediments of the Federal Government: He created jobs. His dream, his vision, included that—to make a difference, to give other people an opportunity to forge a brighter and better future for them and their families.

It wasn't a self-serving dream.

It was a dream to serve others.

During those decades following World War II, we saw that same example all across this great Nation of people doing what people were created to do—make a difference.

It is not government's responsibility to create a job through a bill. It is government's responsibility to create an environment, an environment that produces certainty, an environment that a small business owner has the guarantee that he knows what his taxes are going to be, that he knows what his fees are going to be, that he knows what his regulations are going to be, not just in 6 months or 12 months, but for years, and that creates certainty.

I had never served in elected office before being sworn in as a Member of this House in January. I went from small business to Congress, and so I bring with me that understanding that, if government gets out of the way and if we can do what Americans do better than any country in the world, we will make our communities a better place, and, yes, because of our benevolence, we will make the world a better place.

It was a great disappointment when the President came to this Chamber and the President introduced his plan. I was saddened. Yes, there were some things that I agreed with that we need to do—the free trade agreements. We are still waiting for those free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. We're waiting. There was agreement on tax reform. There was agreement on payroll tax reduction to give small businesses more money, to give individuals more money on their paychecks. We agreed there. But if you look deeper into this bill, you will see, unfortunately, more of the same.

This jobs bill creates a brand new, permanent, government-owned bureaucracy. As a matter of fact, it's a corporation—the President's American

Infrastructure Financing Authority, a solely owned subsidiary of the Federal Government. It is not time for the Federal Government to create corporations, corporations that have chief executive officers and chief financial officers, risk officers, chief compliance officers, chief operating officers, chief lending officers, general counsel, and boards of directors who are lending money—lending money—with terms out to 35 years.

Now, unfortunately, this is insanity. This sounds so much like the first stimulus—and the first stimulus, we know, with 35 percent of those funds having yet to be spent. We were promised our unemployment numbers would not go over 8 percent. As a matter of fact, the administration claimed that unemployment numbers by this time would be at 6.5. Well, we all know that is not true. As a matter of fact, in my home State of Florida, we're living with 10.7 percent unemployment, and, last year, we spent most of the year at 12—historic unemployment numbers.

□ 1100

Unfortunately, insanity, when you do the same thing over and over and over again, expecting different results, seems to be the order of the day; and that is not what the American people want right now. They want certainty. They want certainty to be able to work hard, to have honest dealings and to know that after they work hard and they're honest, that they will have a brighter future when they wake up tomorrow.

They deserve that. They deserve that and unfortunately this plan goes in the opposite direction. So it bothers me that with the regulations that we face, the cloud of uncertainty just grows.

Madam Speaker, I say in closing, business has never been asked to do more with less, and they clearly know less certainty.

RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as I come each week, to share yet another horrific story about rape in the military.

It is a black eye on this country that must be erased. Nineteen thousand rapes a year occur in the military. Those are figures determined by the Department of Defense itself. I encourage those who want to tell their story to email me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov.

Today I am going to talk about Seaman Kori Cioca, who served in the Coast Guard from August 2005 to June 2007. Her allegations are as follows:

Seaman Cioca was consistently threatened and harassed by her superior. On one occasion, when she made a mistake during a knot-tying quiz, he called her a "stupid bleeping female

who didn't belong in the military." Then he spit in her face.

She complained about her superior's abusive behavior and expressed fear of him to other military personnel in the chain of command. As is too often the case, this reporting led to her being punished and not the perpetrator.

Her superior began to drive past Cioca's home many times during the day and called her repeatedly, leaving her voice mails threatening her life. He then began to break into her room at night and stand over her bed. Seaman Cioca began sleeping with a knife under her pillow to defend herself.

During work one day, her superior thrust his groin into her buttocks as she bent over to pick up some trash. He then called her a "bleeping whore" and laughed. Seaman Cioca and another shipmate who witnessed the incident reported it to the command. Seaman Cioca requested a transfer, but it was denied.

At the end of November 2005, the superior broke into Seaman Cioca's room. He directed her to touch his genitals. When she refused loudly, he grabbed her hand and pushed it into his groin. When she yelled again and pushed her superior away, he struck her so hard in the face that she was thrown across the room and against a wall.

Seaman Cioca and two other shipmates, who witnessed the harassment, went to command and reported the assault. Command did nothing in response.

In December 2005, Seaman Cioca was ordered to go to retrieve some keys from her superior, who was in his stateroom. When he realized she was alone, he pulled her into the room, grabbed her by the hair and raped her.

Command obtained an admission of sex from the superior, but told Seaman Cioca that if she pressed forward with reporting the rape, she would be court-martialed for lying. They refused her pleas to take a lie detector test so she could prove her case.

The superior only pled guilty to hitting her. He got a slap on the wrist.

She, on the other hand, was forced to sign a paper saying she had an inappropriate relationship with her superior and was discharged.

As part of the discharge process, command made her stay in an all-male barracks for 60 days. She now suffers from PTSD and an abnormal EEG due to nerve damage in her face.

Cioca later told the press, "It's like they didn't care. It wasn't important. I wasn't important."

Well, Seaman Cioca, you are important, and it is important. And it's high time that the Congress of the United States take action to rid the military of rape.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's always an honor and privilege to speak in this body. There has just been so much information about the American Jobs Act that the President has touted that he demanded that we pass here in this room, and at the time he had no American Jobs Act.

The next day, Friday, he had spent millions of dollars, taxpayer dollars, running around the country demanding that people pass his bill. On Saturday, the same thing, all weekend, running around telling people to pass his American Jobs Act when there was no such bill.

Monday afternoon, very late, there became a bill. It's hard to believe that this is what came out of the White House because it does not represent what the President said he wanted to do, said he believed in. I'm sure he doesn't have time to go through and actually read and see that the things he's saying in his speech are completely opposite of what he's doing in his so-called American Jobs Act, but that's why, after 6 days of being beat up verbally by the President for not passing his American Jobs Act and finding that there was no such American Jobs Act on file here in the House, I felt like I needed to help the President by creating an American Jobs Act that really will create jobs. So I filed a two-page American Jobs Act that will do more than anything the President has talked about or put in writing to create jobs in America.

But just since the President is obviously not aware of what's actually in his bill based on what he's saying, in the limited time we have here, I wanted to touch on some of these things.

For example, the President said over and over and over that he wants to go after these greedy, big oil companies like British Petroleum, Exxon, Shell, those big companies, and that his American Jobs Act, his bill, actually will do that. It will go after their profits. He probably has no clue that the fact is the three pages of deductions that are eliminated for oil companies, they're basically for oil companies that produce less than a thousand barrels of oil a day. They don't even apply to the people that the President says he's going after for these unseemly profits they're making.

I'm sure he's also not aware, but the fact is that over 94 percent of all oil and gas wells drilled on the continental U.S. are done by independent oil producers who these three pages will devastate and put most out of business. And so the President, by these three pages, that I'm sure he doesn't really understand what they do, but the fact is they'll put the independent oil producers out of business.

They will affect the major oil companies because once over 94 percent of all

oil and gas wells in America and the continental U.S. are stopped, then the major oil companies that he's demonized will actually make more money than they've ever made in their history, and it will be the middle hard-working Americans that will pay the biggest price. They're the least able to afford dramatically higher gasoline prices, but that's what will happen.

We are also told that we're going to go after the millionaires and billionaires that have all this money and not paying their fair share. Now, to me, if we're going to make sure everybody pays their fair share, and you've got somebody like Warren Buffett that pays a 15 percent capital gains tax, why don't we make everybody's tax 15 percent? Everybody in America ought to have some financial interest in seeing this government is accountable. That's what should happen.

Instead, at pages 134 and 135 of his bill—and, again, it has to be filed in the House because it's a revenue-raising bill and under the Constitution he'll have to start here—it's not on file. There hasn't been one Democrat willing to file this disaster of a bill that the President is out there beating us up over. Actually, he's just saying pass the American Jobs Act, which is my two-page bill that really will create jobs.

□ 1110

But people need to know, Madam Speaker, that the definition in here apparently of a millionaire and billionaire is anybody who's married and makes over \$125,000 a year. For some of us, \$125,000 a year is not a millionaire or billionaire or gazillionaire. This is somebody who is paying taxes. They're paying their fair share. They're paying over 30 percent of their income in taxes. Well, why shouldn't we just say, all right, ultra-rich like Warren Buffett, quit fighting not to pay the billions of dollars you already owe in taxes, just write the check.

I think if people will go read the President's bill, they will find out we need to pass the American Jobs Act that's on file with the House. That's my bill.

REPEAL 3 PERCENT WITHHOLDING PROVISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, the 3 percent withholding provision, which will come into effect if Congress does not act, essentially forces businesses that have contracts with the government to forgo 3 percent of their payments as a downpayment on their tax bill. This represents yet another burden on our Nation's small businesses and job creators, the lifeblood of our economy.

As a small businessman, I know firsthand about the negative impact of burdensome taxes and cumbersome regula-

tions. Many small businesses that contract with the government operate on very slim profit margins, so a 3 percent tax would create serious cash flow problems for them at a time when so many are struggling. Aside from that, this provision will actually cost the government money. Federal, State, and local governments are already facing unprecedented deficits, and yet agencies will have to create new collection systems and may face higher costs for goods and services if this is not repealed. The Department of Defense has said that for the DOD alone, the provision will cost \$17 billion to implement. Madam Speaker, that is \$7 billion more than the total revenue the tax is expected to raise. In another example of Washington math, the provision will force the government to spend more money and end up eliminating jobs and hurting small businesses.

Congress can certainly do better. We must do better. Twenty million Americans are out of work, and our small businesses must have the certainty they need to create more jobs. We cannot punish law-abiding businesses because a few contractors do not pay their taxes. Instead, the government should stop awarding government contracts to businesses that do not pay. To that point, the OMB and the Treasury Department have announced several initiatives to prevent contracts from going to companies that are delinquent on their taxes.

Madam Speaker, we're looking for something we can do right now to help job creation in America. Well, this is it. Repealing the 3 percent withholding provision will provide a significant benefit to small businesses just by getting Washington out of their way. If we don't repeal it, we will put small businesses, jobs across America, and our efforts at economic recovery at greater risk. It's time to get this harmful job-killing provision off the books forever.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again we come to ask You for wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House. At a time when once again